



# Montgomery County Council

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Statement by Council President Tom Perez on Release of Proposed Operating Budget**

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"I commend the County Executive for his hard work in putting together a budget that goes a long way toward matching our critical needs as a County with our available resources.

"This budget includes needed property tax relief. The question is not whether we'll be giving County homeowners a break on their property taxes – but rather what kind of relief it'll be. I want to provide across-the-board tax relief to all property owners, as well as additional targeted relief to those who need it most.

"The budget reflects the importance of good schools to our future as a County by funding 100 percent of our public school system's request – and also fully funding Montgomery College. It focuses attention on the rising problem of gangs in the County. The \$3 million in new funding for our 'Montgomery Cares' Health Care program will expand access to health care for the estimated 80,000 among us with no insurance.

"I'm especially happy that the full funding for the Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission includes putting the trash cans back into all County parks.

"As the Council takes this excellent first draft and makes final decisions on the budget, we have to be mindful of the impact of federal and state budget cuts on our County.

"The President wants to cut Medicaid, education, housing, community development, and many other programs that are vital to children, seniors, and working adults. The Governor wants to cut our cost-of-education funding, Program Open Space, special education, K-12 Challenge Grants, and other key programs. This is an abdication of the federal-state-local partnership that our residents and our communities need.

"These cuts leave us holding the bag – a bag that keeps on getting heavier."

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